

REPORT

NATIVE PAPERS IN BENGAL

ON

FOR THE

Week ending the 19th September 1903.

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II.—HOME ADMINISTRATION.

(a)—Police.

THE Bihar Punch [Gaya] of the 4th September is sorry that the Bengal Police Department has issued a circular to the effect that European constables should be appointed as Inspectors of Police, without any regard to their qualifications. This order has greatly disappointed the native police officers. Perhaps the Inspector-General of Police has made it a point to fill up all higher posts in the Police Department with Europeans and Eurasians. Although Government makes no distinction between its subjects of different creeds and colour, the officials at the head of the administration of affairs in India consider it wise policy to show favour to Europeans at the cost of Indians. Of the total number of Police Inspectorships six have been filled by European constables and one by a European outsider. These are not certainly good things.

BIHAR PUNCH,
Sept. 4th, 1903.

2. The *Sri Sri Vishnu Priya-o-Ananda Bazar Patrika* [Calcutta] of the 9th September says that with the increase of cattle-poisoning in the country, distress in a country various sorts of crime crop up in it. In the Backergunge, Murshidabad, Dacca, Burdwan and other districts *Chamars* are poisoning bulls and cows for their skins. Recently, a consecrated bull has been poisoned at Goalpara, Berhampore. The *Murshidabad Hitaishi* newspaper reports a similar case at Harhihati, Khagra. The case is *sub judice*. If the evil is not timely checked, it will cause serious disturbance in the country.

**SRI SRI VISHNU
PRIYA-O-
ANANDA BAZAR
PATRIKA,**
Sept. 9th, 1903.

3. The *Howrah Hitaishi* [Howrah] of the 12th September writes that the reports of thefts and dacoities in the Bagnan thana of the Howrah district are not very few in number. But the police are quite indifferent. There are many suspicious characters in the thana who have no ostensible means of livelihood. But the police take no notice of them, either through remissness or on account of some worse cause. It is to be hoped that the District Magistrate of Howrah and the District Superintendent of Police will take due notice of the above state of things.

HOWRAH HITASHI,
Sept. 12th, 1903.

4. The *Dacca Prakas* [Dacca] of the 13th September writes as follows :—
We have nothing to say against the conclusion at which the Sessions Judge of Dacca and the jury have arrived after a due consideration of the evidence and the circumstances in the case of horrible murder at Nak-kata Chur. For it is always desirable that the innocent should not be made to suffer. But what can be a greater disgrace to the authorities than the fact that the perpetrators of such diabolical murders in broad daylight and before the very eyes of no less than thirteen police officers have not been traced? What a sight it was that was witnessed on Nak-kata Chur! More than a dozen armed policemen coolly looked on while the blood of the murdered reddened the earth and none of the lily-livered people was able to arrest even one criminal. These are the men employed to maintain peace in the country! What people could never even dream of was witnessed on Nak-kata Chur. This incident has convinced the people of the real worth of the police, and for this reason their anxiety for their own safety has greatly increased.

DACCA PRAKASH,
Sept. 13th, 1903.

The police in the Nak-kata Chur murder case.
The Inspector of Police stated in his evidence that he saw some thirty men come out of the *cutcherry*. But he did not even think it necessary to arrest these men who were thus escaping. Such an officer certainly deserves to be richly rewarded!

In conclusion we wish to bring this matter to the notice of the Government in the hope that it will not be allowed to remain where it is. If such diabolical murders are not properly enquired into and the offenders are not brought to justice, the life and property of the people will not be safe. If detectives are not employed, it will not be possible to trace the culprits and bring out the real facts of the case. We hope, therefore, that Government will not hesitate to appoint able detective officers to investigate the case. In this case considerations of prestige at least should have weight with Government. Moreover, the manner in which the investigations were conducted by the police, and the utter failure of the Inspector to act with proper tact and caution, should be duly noticed by Government.

(b)—Working of the Courts.

JASOHAR,
Sept. 9th, 1903.

5. A correspondent of the *Jasohar* [Jessore] of the 9th September complains of the irritability of the temper of Babu Paresnath Rai Chaudhuri, the 1st Munsif of Khulna.

He often behaves in an ungentlemanly manner with respectable people, strikes off cases if pleaders are late in attendance by three or four minutes, and tries to intimidate witnesses in the dock. He should be careful in future, else the editor will be obliged to publish many unpleasant things against him.

JYOTI,
Sept. 10th, 1903.

6. Referring to the Bain case in the High Court, the *Jyoti* [Chittagong] of the 10th September writes as follows:—

The Bain case in the High Court.

When Mr. Justice Sale acquitted Bain, the Europeans present in the Court were overjoyed and loudly clapped. The Anglo-Indian newspapers are lauding the Judge to the skies for his wisdom. But the people of this country have been struck with consternation at the result. No one ever dreamt that a case of such gross outrage by a European upon a native would end so disastrously in the High Court.

JYOTI.

7. Referring to the conviction of Mr. Tilak, the same paper writes as follows:—

Mr. Tilak.

Mr. Clements, the Magistrate, depending solely upon the uncorroborated evidence of Tai Maharaj, found Mr. Tilak guilty of perjury. The question whether Mr. Tilak is guilty or not is one which we do not now propose to discuss. What important political purpose has been served by punishing Mr. Tilak so heavily for such a trivial offence, by making such a gross misuse of public money and by wasting so much of the time of the public officers? The people of Bombay are anxious to preserve the memory of Lord Northcote by erecting a marble statue. But it is during his administration that so great a man as Mr. Tilak has been put to so much trouble. It is only mean sycophants who are always ready to do anything for his glorification. But the verdict of impartial history will falsify all such proceedings. Is not Lord Northcote aware that Government has spent full 40,000 rupees to humble Mr. Tilak?

HITAVADI,
Sept. 11th, 1903.

8. Babu Jivan Das Banerji, Panchanantala Road, Howrah, says that recently the Municipal Overseer of Howrah brought a case against Jnanada Bewa, a female servant of Babu Prasanna Kumar Basu, Deputy Collector, on the ground that she had caused public nuisance by throwing cowshed washings into the street. Jnanada appeared in Court and said that she had neither a house of her own nor cows. But the trying Deputy Magistrate, Babu Nivaran Chandra Ghatak, disbelieved the poor woman, released her on a bail of Rs. 20, and gave her hope of an enquiry into the case. When the Court rose on the following day, Jnanada asked why no enquiry had been made. This made Nivaran Babu angry, and the poor woman was fined. The attention of the authorities is drawn to the case.

HITAVADI.

9. The same paper writes as follows on the Bain case:—

The Bain case.

We are unable to understand how Mr. Justice Sale arrived at his conclusion regarding Bain from the same records which had convinced the two learned Judges of the Revision Bench of the necessity of a retrial. Surely the honour of the Revision Bench has not been upheld in Mr. Justice Sale's decision. Mr. Justice Sale ought to have followed the direction of the Bench. As the case did not come to him on appeal, he ought to have taken no concern of the evidence recorded in the Assam Court. If the case could be decided on that evidence, the Revision Bench could have done so. Had Mr. Justice Sale really any power to disregard the Bench's direction? It is true that the Advocate-General withdrew the case, but he did that after Mr. Justice Sale had expressed his opinion on it. Again, under what law did the Advocate-General withdraw the case when a Revision Bench had ordered its retrial? An early decision of all these points of law is necessary.

PEOPLE AND
PRATIVASI,
Sept. 16th, 1903.

10. The *People and Prativasi* [Calcutta] of the 16th September has the following:—

Trial of Europeans charged with the murder of natives.

It would be well for the rulers and the ruled alike if Government would let the people of this

country know, either by beat of drum or by notification in the official Gazettes, the manner in which it wishes to govern them. So long as attempts are made to throw dust into the eyes of the public and play the saint, so long will it be our duty to loudly proclaim the true facts to the world. Even the meanest worm dies with a shriek when it is killed, and the only resource left to the weak is to cry. We are, of course, aware that if we cry for remedy the officials will govern us more rigorously and try to gag us by means of rigorous laws; still there will be this advantage that their doings will all have been proclaimed to the world. If it had not been proclaimed by the late Empress of India that she would observe perfect equality between her British and Indian subjects, we would have looked on partiality in the administration of justice in silence and known that the ruling race possesses an undisputed right to kill the natives of this country. But when, after letting the world know that the Indians are being governed in the same manner as Englishmen, Europeans guilty of the murder of natives are let off either by the raising of confusing questions in the course of the trial or by getting the accused to appear as insane, while any outcry raised on the score of inoffensive natives being killed like brutes is enough to enrage the European community and lead judicial officers to sharply reprimand those who raise such an outcry, we are certainly unable to maintain an attitude of silence or indifference.

The cooly Lalsa met with his death and the accused was acquitted. Even Mr. Justice Sale has proved true to his name of *sahib*. Of course, the case would have evoked no comment from the European community if no one had made any remark about it, and if the native public had not made the officials, as well as others, acquainted with their real views on it. The discussion of the action of the accused European in the Mean Meer case, carried on in native newspapers, enraged both his pleader and the European Judge who tried it, and everybody knows how satisfactory the decision was. Indeed, the result of that farce of a trial raises the suspicion that both the accused's pleader and the trying Magistrate were on the lookout for a technical flaw in the evidence. Nor has the result of the Casey case been otherwise. Private Casey has been acquitted, though we cannot say whether he raised a plea of insanity. In this connection Mr. Justice Robertson did not fail to make severe strictures on native newspapers. Considering the present attitude of European judicial officers towards these papers, it is doubtful whether Europeans charged with the murder of natives will, in future, be called upon, as in the past, to appear as defendants in any Criminal Court. In future, if any such case happens to be discussed, or even noticed, in a vernacular newspaper, it will not be necessary for the accused even to undergo the trouble of a trial. Henceforth, will anybody be to blame if he comes to think that natives will be killed by Europeans and no one will be allowed to communicate the news to the world? Whom shall we ask this question? Do Europeans really take the natives to be such consummate fools? It behoves the authorities to bear in mind that, unless sorely oppressed, the natives would never consider it a matter of pride or glory to proclaim to the world the fact of their oppression in the expectation of obtaining relief or remedy.

(c)—*Jails*.

11. The *Hitavadi* [Calcutta] of the 11th September says that some time ago one Manmatha Nath Lahiri was sentenced to one month's imprisonment and a fine of Rs. 20 by the Subdivisional Officer of Ulubaria in the Howrah district. When the man was in jail the local Police Sub-Inspector realised the fine from his mother and gave her a receipt. On the expiration of one month she sent a man to bring Manmatha from jail, but the jail authorities refused to release him on the ground of his fine not having been realised. The poor mother was greatly astonished and petitioned the District Magistrate, with the result that her son was released after three days. Who is responsible for this additional imprisonment of three days? Under what law did the Sub-Inspector realise the fine from the prisoner's mother? An early enquiry is solicited.

HITAVADI,
Sept. 11th, 1903.

(d)—Education.

Jyoti,
Sept. 10th, 1903.

Disgraceful conduct of school-
masters in Chittagong.

12. The *Jyoti* [Chittagong] of the 10th September writes as follows:—

Last Saturday night, some teachers of the Chittagong Collegiate School, while hopelessly drunk, entered into the house of a respectable man. One of them was caught, and the others escaped. This man was brought before a Deputy Magistrate and convicted and fined Rs. 5. It is to be regretted that these men were appointed teachers on the recommendation of the Principal of the Chittagong College. This is the first time that such a scandalous thing has occurred in Chittagong.

SANJIVANI,
Sept. 10th, 1903.

13. Referring to the question of the appointment of a Professor in the Bethune College, the *Sanjivani* [Calcutta] of the 10th September observes as follows:—

Bethune College matters.

It is an open secret that the present Secretary to the Bethune School Committee has been systematically trying to do away with the Committee's authority in appointing Professors in the Bethune College. Since he became Secretary, three Professors have been appointed one after another, but none among them with the approval of the Committee. As there is not a single Hindu girl-student in the College classes, all the students being Brahmos and Christians, to appoint a Hindu Professor either without or against the consent of the Brahmo members of the Committee is highly unjust. In the matter of filling up the present vacancy, caused by the death of Babu Aditya Kumar Chatterji, the Secretary, while outwardly trying to entrust the Director of Public Instruction with the selection of a candidate, has been unusually busy securing the appointment of his own nominee, who is a Hindu. Such unworthy conduct, we need hardly point out, can end only in one way: the Committee having nothing to do, must soon cease to exist, and the consequent collapse of the Bethune College will be inevitable. Matters have now come to such a pass that the selection of a candidate for the Professorship must depend upon the Director of Public Instruction. For, the High Court having closed, most of the members of the Committee are away, and it is impossible to convene a meeting. We wish therefore to make a suggestion which, we hope, will be considered by the Director, who, being a foreigner, cannot be expected to fully understand all the details. Before making a selection, Mr. A. M. Bose, Dr. P. K. Ray, and the Lady Principal of the Bethune College should be consulted. Next to the opinion of the Committee, their opinion will give general satisfaction.

A Brahmo correspondent from Raigunge in the Dinajpur district endorses all the views expressed by the *Sanjivani* in regard to the Bethune College. He has a daughter reading in that College, who is also a boarder in the Bethune Boarding, and he complains of the present mismanagement of the College, and makes the following suggestions:—

A Lady Professor or teacher should always be preferred. The greatest care should be taken in appointing male teachers. A teacher who is opposed to female education, or whose appointment is opposed by the Brahmo community, should never be entertained.

In the Bethune College Committee, there ought to be at least three Brahmo members. Those who are against the higher education of women should never be appointed as members of the Committee. Strict vigilance ought to be exercised over the actions of the Secretary to the Committee. Mrs. Ganguli, who is the first lady graduate and who enjoys the confidence of all, should be appointed as a member of the Committee in the place of Dr. P. K. Ray.

EDUCATION GAZETTE,
Sept. 11th, 1903.

14. Babu Niranjana Chandra, B.A., writes as follows in the *Education Gazette* [Chinsura] of the 11th September:—

Mr. Pedler's new arrangement
for Lower Primary schools.

Formerly there were only four classes in a Lower Primary school, but now the number has been increased to five. Poor boys do not, generally, prosecute their studies for more than two or three years. The increase in the number of classes will not therefore be of any use or advantage to them. Besides this, under the new arrangement, no text-books but only object-lessons are prescribed for the

last two classes. In this state of things it is doubtful whether rustics will mind sending their boys to school.

Under the old arrangement boys could learn to read and write in two years, but they cannot do that now. And as poor boys cannot prosecute their studies for more than two or three years, the new arrangement will leave them as illiterate as ever. The following table, taken from the Director of Public Instruction's report, gives the numbers of the students who read in the Lower Primary schools and the number of those who passed the Lower Primary examination during the years 1896 to 1901 :—

Year.			Total number of students.	Number of passed students.
1896-97	...	...	1,087,376	...
1897-98	...	...	1,081,432	28,761
1898-99	...	...	1,036,635	28,438
1899-1900	...	...	1,061,477	28,892
1900-1901	...	...	.....	30,716

In 1896-97 there were 1,087,376 students in the four classes in the Lower Primary schools. Had all these students been promoted from class to class or prosecuted their studies up to the end, almost all of them would have passed the Lower Primary examination in the four succeeding years. But by adding together the four right-hand numbers in the above table it is found that only 1,16,807 students, that is to say, 10 per cent. of the above number, passed in those years. The remaining 90 per cent. had therefore either left off their studies or were still reading for a second time in the classes. If the case had been the one last put, the total number of students would have gone on increasing, but the table shows that that was not the case. The conclusion therefore is that large numbers of lower primary students leave off their studies after two or three years. The authorities should now consider how the new arrangement can be so amended as to cause no loss to these students.

(e)—*Local Self-Government and Municipal Administration.*

15. The *Bharat Mitra* [Calcutta] of the 5th September is glad that Kumar Dinendra Narayan Roy, Municipal Commissioner of Calcutta for Ward No. V, has drawn the attention of the municipal authorities to the filthy condition of the northern division of the town. It is to be hoped that Dinendra Babu's efforts will be successful. The attention of the authorities is invited to the perfunctory way in which Cotton Street and certain other streets in the northern division are being repaired.

BHARAT MITRA,
Sept. 5th, 1903.

16. The *Charu Mihir* [Mymensingh] of the 8th September writes that direct interference with local self-government by the authorities is the order of the day. Recently a municipal Commissioner of the English Bazar Municipality in the Malda district, who is a Government officer, was taken to task for giving his vote to the other side. The Commissioner of the Division has asked the municipal Commissioners to raise the municipal tax, and has threatened to suspend them under section 65 of the Municipal Act if they fail to comply. Is this just? Will the English Bazar Municipality share the same fate as the Santipur Municipality?

CHARU MIHIR,
Sept. 8th, 1903.

17. The *Murshidabad Hitaishi* [Murshidabad] of the 9th September says that long ago a patient died of thirst at night in the Murshidabad charitable dispensary, because there was no one present to give him water. As a matter of fact, there was no arrangement for watching patients at night. Recently a Christian lad was lodged in the dispensary, but there was no one to watch him during the night. Having come to know this, the local Civil Surgeon has made arrangements for watching patients at night.

MURSHIDABAD
HITAISHI,
Sept. 9th, 1903.

The Civil Surgeon has, within a short time, earned the love and respect of the local public. He behaves in a gentlemanly manner towards his subordinates. His stay at Murshidabad for a long time is earnestly desired.

SANJIVANI,
Sept. 10th, 1903.

18. The *Sanjivani* [Calcutta] of the 10th September writes as follows :—
Village sanitation. The health of the villages is gradually becoming worse. Malaria has been the curse of village life

in Bengal, and the number of deaths from this source alone is double that from all the other maladies put together. Unfortunately, Government has given up the idea of gradually extending village union committees. The following extract from the Bengal Self-Government Report for 1901-1902 will explain the view Government now takes:—

“The object of union committees is to stimulate local interest in the improvements of areas where population is fairly dense, and one intention of the Act was to enable residents of such areas to supplement the funds received from the District Boards by local taxation for the improvement of drainage and the supply of drinking water. These objects have not been realized, and Government does not propose to extend the system of union committees, except to localities where the residents show signs of a desire to help themselves.”

It is to be regretted that the District and Local Boards pay little or no attention to village sanitation. Vast sums are annually spent by the Boards on the construction of roads. But how much is spent for the improvement of the health of the villagers who are dying by thousands from malaria, and from whom all the income of the Boards is derived?

Last year the Patna Sadar Local Board did good work in connection with village sanitation. The Government of Bengal has ordered all the Local Boards to adopt the recommendations of Mr. Macpherson, the Additional Commissioner of the Patna Division. The following is an extract from Mr. Macpherson's letter to Government:—

“The procedure is that members of the Board report the names of villages in the vicinities of their places of abode which they find to be in an insanitary state. A list of such villages, together with an estimate for cleansing them, is then laid before the Local Board. . . . The operations consist of cleaning of the village sites, conservancy of towns and villages, the removal of filth and rank vegetation, the filling up of ditches, and the like. No special staff is employed, and the work is done by the agency of the sub-overseer under the supervision of the members of the Board.”

The letter of Government recommending Mr. Macpherson's scheme to Commissioners of Divisions contains the following:—

“I am to request that the scheme may be given a fair trial by such Local Boards as you may select, and that the success of the experiment may be noticed in the annual reports from each district where it has been tried. I am at the same time to point out that the residents and proprietors of the villages may properly be called upon to contribute in money or in labour to such work before it is approved by the Local Board.”

Government wishes that everything calculated to improve the sanitation of the villages should be done, but it says nothing as to the portion of the expenditure which the District Boards should contribute. All the work is to be done by raising subscriptions and supplying labour from the villagers. This is most disappointing. Section 87 of the Local Self-Government Act, under the heading “Sanitation,” has the following:—

“It shall be the duty of every District Board, subject to any rules made by the Lieutenant-Governor under this Act, to provide, so far as may be possible, for the proper sanitation of its district, and to incur such expenses or undertake such liabilities as may be necessary in that behalf.”

The tax collected by Government must remain untouched. If there is scarcity of drinking water, the zamindar should supply it. If sanitary measures are required to be undertaken, the villagers themselves should do it. Thus, in every particular, the principles of local self-government are being violated. The method Government means to adopt for the improvement of village sanitation will, we believe, prove a total failure. What will be the harm if District Boards are not required to construct new roads for three or four years? Let the funds be devoted to the repair of old roads, to making arrangements for the free passage of accumulated water, to the removal of jungle from villages, and to the filling up of ditches which are fruitful sources of malarial fever in the Bengal villages. It would be impracticable to carry out sanitary measures by subjecting the villagers to additional taxation or by making them work without wages. If District Boards undertake to bear three-fourths of the entire cost, the remaining one-fourth may be contributed

by the villagers. Government should clearly notify how much District Boards would undertake to pay.

19. The *Hitavadi* [Calcutta] of the 11th September says that the motor-cars running on the various tramway lines in Calcutta, and their lights should in each case be differently coloured so as to enable passengers to know their destinations easily and from a distance, both during daytime and at night. The differences in colour now existing among Chitpore, Wellesly, and Sealdah cars are so slight as to be almost of no use to passengers. It is hoped that the tramway authorities will pay early attention to the subject.

HITAVADI,
Sept. 11th, 1903

A suggestion for the Calcutta Tramways Company.

20. The same paper says that, judging from the Resolution passed by the Government on the subject of the suspension of the Santipur Municipality, no one can blame the authorities for the step they have taken. The Commissioners of the Municipality have, however, not yet come forward with their defence, but it is hoped that they will soon do so. In the meantime, it should be observed that the authorities are everywhere trying to curtail the powers of Municipalities. Leaving aside the case of the Santipur Municipality, the treatment received by the Bogra, Monghyr, Malda, and many other Municipalities from their respective District Magistrates has not been fair and satisfactory. The Divisional Commissioner of Bhagalpur has threatened to abolish the Malda Municipality if it fails to realize municipal rates according to the desire of the authorities. It does not speak well for a progressive Government to assume such a hostile attitude towards local self-government.

HITAVADI.

Government's attitude towards local self-government in Bengal.

21. The *People and Prativasi* [Calcutta] of the 11th September has the following in its English columns:—

PEOPLE AND
PRATIVASI,
Sept. 11th, 1903.

"Patriotism versus self-respect." In our first article we almost anticipated Babu Nalin Behary as to the reasons he would give for his return to the Corporation. We spoke in unmistakable terms that it was Brutus's intense love of his country that made him seek the life of his bosom friend Julius Cæsar. And Babu Nalin Behary's speech at the Corporation is nothing but a paraphrase of that sentiment. We know our political men and we could very well guess the sugared pill that they would ask us to swallow. We do not move in high circles and cannot say what "combination of circumstances" has necessitated Babu Nalin Behary's return to the Corporation. Whether any deputation of our leading citizens waited upon him to induce him to return to the Corporation is more than we can say. Nor do we believe that, now that Babu Nalin Behary is in the Corporation, the lot of his countrymen will be anything the better; a Jogendra Chunder Bose will receive his dues; the rigour of the municipal bailiff will be abated, and municipal assessment will be made on equitable principles. The old law is not there, so what can a native member, however influential, do to assert himself in the Europeanized Corporation? The other day Lord Curzon attacked fiercely the "over-swollen" Corporation of old, and made no secret of his belief that the absence of the talkative native members only contributed to the efficiency of the Corporation's work. His Excellency had a fling at the native Commissioners in a post-prandial speech when he must have been all mirth and jollity, and this is enough to show that a native Commissioner is nothing but a *bête noire* to His Excellency! Many of Babu Nalin Behary's countrymen are still smarting under the sting of that speech. Is it one of the circumstances the combination of which has compelled him to go back to the Corporation? We do not know what to think of the self-respect of the men who, however unwelcome to the owner of the house, will not cease to partake of his hospitality. Even supposing that Babu Nalin Behary can do any good to the country by pocketing an insult, what would it profit us, we repeat, if we gain the whole world and lose our own soul? He who steals our rights and privileges as a citizen steals trash, but he who filches our character and moral backbone robs us of that which makes us poor indeed. Our political men are so conceited in their own wisdom that the poets and prophets of the world have sung to them in vain. We have been treated in the speech to such fine phrases as "public necessity" and "duty as a citizen." We beg to ask this question:—Is it the first duty of a citizen to compromise his whole countrymen—nay, the whole nation before a people that is putting our character to test every now and then? What public necessity can exist in the country where public opinion

is thus set at naught? This only reminds us of the well-known couplet of our late lamented national poet:—

“পরের অধীন দাসের জাতি ‘নেশন’ আবার তারা,
তাদের আবার ‘এজিটেশন’ নকল উঁচু করা।”

We go further and say that it is only mockery and sham to speak of public life in a country where nobody has any reputation to maintain and character to vindicate. Babu Nalin Behary has further disclosed what was also anticipated, that he is not alone in his desire to go back to the Corporation, that he is in good company, that he has done it in a sound mind and sound body and after duly consulting those with whom he had the honour of being associated in withdrawing from the Corporation four years ago. Why honour? Now that better sense prevails, he should have said dishonour? As for the sanction of his compatriots, we can repeat the well-known line of Edmund Burke—“This is a country where goitre keeps goitre in countenance.” We have nothing to say against the venerable gentleman who stands sponsor to Babu Nalin Behary in this his conversion, but what has demoralized even that gentleman who in a happy moment—and we do not know under what inspiration—gave evidence of courage and independence in Government House? Does he not remember that he wanted the people to call him a demi-god for having resigned a seat on the Corporation at the strictures of Sir Alexander Mackenzie? Or this is an atmosphere where manhood is emasculated in no time.

PEOPLE AND
PRATIVARI,

22. The same paper has the following in its English columns:—

Mr. Greer's successor in the Calcutta Municipality.

The appointment of Sir Walter Lawrence as President of the Calcutta Corporation, writes the *Indian Daily News*, would cut the Gordian knot that has long baffled and exasperated lovers of the city. The position has, for some unknown reason, come to be regarded as a stepping-stone for some ambitious Bengal Civilian to that exalted sphere from which Chief Secretaries and Lieutenant-Governors are drawn; and considering the nature of their duties and the fierce light of public criticism that plays upon their actions it is not surprising that some incumbents regard the term of office as a purgatorial probation for the supreme reward. As there are conscientious souls in purgatory, so there are conscientious Municipal Presidents, but none contemplates standing up against the maxim bombardment of Clive Street or the rifle fire of Old Post Office Street for ever and always, as the Irish phrase goes. He wants his reward sooner or later; the sooner the better. Civilian Presidents are not, therefore, a complete success. Sir Walter Lawrence would be what is called a whole-time man, with no vision beyond his present appointment except, of course, that *otium cum dignitate* which he would earn by increasing years and long and meritorious service. The fact that he did once belong to the Indian Civil Service would reconcile members of the Bengal branch to the loss of a plum, which at the best of times is a bitter-sweet. Sir Walter's ability and energy are undoubted, and we believe his conscientiousness is commensurate. He has learnt much from Lord Curzon of the way to do in ten hours what other officials would take ten weeks to get through. He has also been infected by his Chief's ambition to see Calcutta become in every sense of the word the pride of the East. He is, therefore, if he will pardon the familiarity, quite the “Man for Galway,” and we shall rejoice when the news of his appointment is officially confirmed.

HITAVARTA,
Sept. 13th, 1908.

23. The *Hitavarta* [Calcutta] of the 13th September says that the

The Calcutta Municipality.

Calcutta Municipality stands in need of the immediate attention of the higher authorities. The members of the existing General Committee have proved themselves quite unfit for their trust by reason of their abuse of their powers for the purposes of personal gain. Neglect of duty by the Conservancy Department, the Road Department, and the Lighting Department is making the condition of the town worse and worse. The water-supply, too, has become very deficient. Every day a new bye-law is passed and the next day it is cancelled. Every day Sub-Committees are formed which go out of existence a few days after. The Municipality is also conducting itself in a most despotic style. In fact, the

Municipality is doing its work in an extremely unsatisfactory manner. It is, therefore, the duty of the rate-payers to bestir themselves without delay.

24. Referring to the return of Babu Nalin Behary Sarkar to the Calcutta Municipality, the *Rangalay* [Calcutta] of the 13th

RANGALAY,
Sept. 13th, 1903.

Babu Nalin Behary Sarkar again in the Municipality.

September writes as follows :—

We cannot blame Babu Nalin Behary Sarkar for returning to the Calcutta Municipality. He possesses the confidence of all, and we expect him to be able to do much for the residents of Calcutta. He has acted wisely in responding to the call of duty. Considering the acts of oppression by municipal officers, which are daily on the increase, he is the fittest person to put an effective check on the same.

25. The *Pallivasi* [Kalna] of the 16th September says that the

PALLIVASI,
Sept. 16th, 1903.

The question of filling up *dobas* in the Kalna Municipality.

complaint is made by Government that the Commissioners of the Kalna Municipality are doing nothing to give effect to the recommendation of the Sanitary Commissioner to fill up the *dobas* within that municipal area. It is a pity that Government does not know that no funds are available for this purpose, that the rate-payers are extremely poor, and that the recommendation in question is most improper under the circumstances. But it behoves the Commissioners to profit by the example that has been made of the Commissioners of the Santipur Municipality.

26. A correspondent of the same paper draws attention to the bad condition of the roads within the Kalna Municipality

PALLIVASI.

The condition of roads in the Kalna Municipality.

and to the fact that the Saspur Road, for whose repairs Rs. 100 were sanctioned by the Commissioners last year, has not been yet repaired.

(f)—Questions affecting the land.

27. A correspondent of the *Hitavadi* [Calcutta] of the 11th September

HITAVADI,
Sept. 11th, 1903.

Messrs. Watson & Co.'s tenants in the Kushtia subdivision.

says that on the occasion of the recent visit of the Commissioner of the Presidency Division to Kushtia town nearly 300 raiyats preferred complaints to him against Messrs. Watson & Co., the local indigo-planters. But it is a matter of great regret that he dismissed the complaints as exaggerated, without even enquiring into them. Besides this, he has expressed dissatisfaction at the District Magistrate's conduct in having instituted an enquiry into some complaints against the Company during the absence of Mr. Crawford, of the Company, in Darjeeling. If what the correspondent says be true, the Commissioner deserves to be censured. If there was no oppression, well and good; but the Commissioner ought not to have dismissed the complaints as false without enquiring into them.

(g)—Railways and communications, including canals and irrigation.

28. The *Burdwan Sanjivani* [Burdwan] of the 8th September writes as follows :—

BURDWAN
SANJIVANI,
Sept. 8th, 1903.

Railway complaints.

At the Sainthia railway station on the East Indian Railway, there are no seats for passengers on the down platform, nor any overbridge for crossing the railway line. There is a waiting-room on the down platform in which there is only one bench for passengers. Most of the passengers are therefore obliged to remain standing. Respectable female passengers are put to great inconvenience for want of a waiting-room. Latrine arrangements have not yet been made in the intermediate and third class carriages on the Loop line. It is to be regretted that the East Indian Railway authorities are utterly indifferent to the comfort and convenience of passengers. We hope Government will take due notice of the inconvenience of passengers and compel the railway authorities to remove it.

29. The *Charu Mihir* [Mymensingh] of the 8th September writes that the

CHARU MIHIR,
Sept. 8th, 1903.

A railway inconvenience.

privy at the Mymensingh railway station being situated at some distance from the platform, causes great inconvenience to passengers, which can be easily removed by opening a more direct path leading to the spot than the present circuitous one. It is to be hoped that the railway authorities will remove the inconvenience.

MEDINI BANDHAV,
Sept. 9th, 1903.

30. A correspondent of the *Medini Bandhav* [Midnapore] complains of the want of a proper goods-shed at the Balichak Canal station on the Bengal-Nagpur Railway. Heaps of

A railway complaint.

the famous Midnapore mats are seen lying on open ground and becoming damaged in the sun and rain. Balichak is a trade centre and its canal-borne traffic is large. But the arrangements for goods traffic are not satisfactory. Again, large numbers of third class passengers gather at Balichak railway station. A *musafirkhana* is therefore greatly needed there.

PEOPLE AND
PRATIVASI,
Sept. 11th, 1903.

31. A correspondent communicates to the *People and Prativasi* [Calcutta] of the 11th September the following account of a railway journey from Sealdah to Bogra :—

A railway complaint.

The correspondent travelled second class. On the platform of the Sealdah station there are two benches labelled "For Europeans" and another "Second class." At the Darjeeling mail time, on the day in question, both the benches were occupied by Europeans. A native could not consequently sit on any of them. On the Padma river the cabin in the ferry steamer was full of *sahibs* and *mem-sahibs* taking their *khana*, so that a native, who is not of the anglicised type, had no place in it. And there were no benches on the steamer on which people could sit. In the waiting-room at the Santahar Junction station the iron bedstead was occupied by a railway servant, and there were no benches either there or on the platform on which a first or second class passenger could lie down.

HITAVADI,
Sept. 11th, 1903.

32. The *Hitavadi* [Calcutta] of the 11th September publishes the following railway complaints :—

Railway complaints.

(1) Babu Nikka Prasad Misra, Mayur Mahal, Burdwan town, says that on the 15th August last, finding the door of the intermediate class carriage in the No. 3-Up Bombay Mail train at the Howrah station on the East Indian Railway locked, he asked a European ticket-collector to open it for him. At first the ticket-collector paid no heed, but afterwards entreaties moved him to unlock the door. But no sooner the correspondent had entered into the carriage than the door was again locked, and his luggage, carried by a cooly, was left on the platform. He earnestly requested the *sahib* either to let him out or to let in the luggage, but to no effect. At last, just before the starting of the train, the female ticket-collector of the station took pity on him, unlocked the door, and let in the luggage.

(2) Babu Aghornath Datta, Bellur, Babu Anadinath De, care of Annada Prasad De, Honorary Magistrate and Sub-Registrar of Serampore, and Babu Rampada Majumdar, Clerk, Judge's Court, Serampore, say that at 10 P.M. on the 20th August last they paid Re. 1 to the booking-clerk of the Howrah station on the East Indian Railway for three third class tickets for the Bali station. But in lieu of the balance due to them he paid them three annas only, asking them to come on the following afternoon for the balance. It being high time for the train, by which they were to travel, to start, they hurried to it without being able to bring the matter to the notice of the station-master or any other high officer. They went to the booking-office next afternoon, but found none of the men of the previous night. The correspondents can, however, identify two or three of them.

(3) A correspondent says that the practice of collecting tickets through a *khalasi* still continues at the Deorpur station on the East Indian Railway. The other day one Girindralal Pal, an inhabitant of the Borhagorhi village, was harassed and insulted for refusing to give up his ticket to the *khalasi* ticket-collector. The station-master has made the District Traffic Superintendent understand that if tickets be not collected by a *khalasi*, passengers will be detained.

Again, a signaller named Srinath Karmakar, attached to the station and reputed to be a man of a bad character, is in the habit of cutting jokes and taking improper liberty with even respectable women, inhabitants of the neighbouring village of Alipur, when they go out to bathe or fetch water. A petition was made to the General Traffic Superintendent against the conduct of the signaller. The Traffic Superintendent came on enquiry, and took the evidence of three of the petitioners. It is, however, said that on account of his not possessing a good knowledge of the Bengali language, he could not understand them well. A Bengali knowing *sahib* should therefore be sent to make an enquiry.

(4) Babu Krishna Das Sen Gupta, Balubhara, Rajshahi district, says that on the 15th July last he did not get an intermediate class return ticket from the Santahar to the Cooch Behar railway station. At the latter station also he did not get an inter-class return ticket. Again, the train which carried him from the Parbatipur Junction station towards Cooch Behar had only one inter-class carriage, but the number of inter-class passengers in it was not less than 30. The correspondent was consequently obliged to travel third class with an inter-class ticket. On the 23rd June last there was no inter-class carriage in the train from Cooch Behar. Will there be no end of these inconveniences?

(5) A correspondent says that under a recent arrangement, enforced from the 1st September last, no down train touches the Khanyan station on the East Indian Railway between 3 and 5-30 P.M. This causes great inconvenience to a large number of down passengers from Khanyan. This inconvenience can be removed by arranging for the stopping of the Down Delhi Passenger and the Down Loop Mixed trains at the station.

(6) A correspondent complains of the want of platforms at the Paraj station on the East Indian Railway.

(7) A correspondent says that a change in the timing of the No. 38-Down train on the East Indian Railway has become a source of great inconvenience and hardship to a large number of Tarakeshwar passengers. Formerly Tarakeshwar passengers arriving at the Hooghly station by the 8-Down train on the Eastern Bengal State Railway could avail themselves of the former train, but now they have to spend a whole night at the Hooghly station. The Agent of the East Indian Railway Company has been petitioned in this matter.

(8) Babu Sasi Bhusan Chatterji, Kumarbela, says that, on the 3rd August last, an up-country servant of Mr. B. Bakea and the wife of a servant of the Assistant Engineer of Karhsugurha were travelling in the third class carriage in the up tranship train on the Bengal-Nagpur Railway. The former was coming from the Kulanga station and was bound for the Karhsugurha station. On the way the guard of the train, Mr. Theobald, entered into the third class carriage, expressed a bad intention to the woman by touching her body, and tried to carry her off to the brake-van. Moved by her cries, the up-country servant opposed the guard. Thereupon the latter began to beat him, and when the train reached the Baghra station dragged him to the station-house, beating him all the way. Hearing everything from the poor servant the station-master asked the Guard to let him off. But instead of doing that the guard dragged also the woman out of her carriage, and confined her and her companion in the brake-van. An Audit Inspector of the railway was present there. But neither he nor any one of the station staff dared to oppose the guard. It is easily conceivable what oppression the poor man and woman suffered at the hands of the brutal guard. There being no police at the Baghra station, the station-master reported the matter to the District Traffic Superintendent, who came to the Chakradharpur station to enquire and suspended the guard. The culprit was not, however, handed over to the police.

(9) A correspondent named Mathura Nath Basu says that on the 10th August last, desiring to travel from Azimganj to Sitarampur by the 3-35 night train, he asked the booking-clerk of the former station to book his luggage and expressed his desire to have it carried in the brake-van. After weighing the luggage the booking-clerk demand Rs. 3 as its fare, and said that it could not be carried in the brake-van. Whereupon the correspondent paid him Rs. 3, and took the luggage to the carriage in which he had seated his wife and a child. But when he asked the booking-clerk for a receipt, the latter procrastinated. At last, when the starting whistle was given, the correspondent had to give up all hope of getting a receipt, and joined his wife and child in great haste. At the Nalhati station the station Babus demanded a fare of Rs. 5 from him for the luggage, but as he had no money with him, he asked them to book it as unpaid. To this, however, they did not agree. Again, at Burdwan station the ticket-collector began to put great pressure on him for having no receipt for the luggage. One of the station clerks, however, kindly booked it as unpaid. But as the correspondent does not know English, he could not see what was written on the receipt. At the Sitarampur station Rs. 8-8 was demanded from him, and having no other alternative than to pay, he did pay the sum. Will the railway authorities enquire into the matter?

HOWRAH HATAISHI,
Sept. 12th, 1903.

33. A correspondent, writes the *Howrah Hitaishi* [Howrah] of the 12th September, complains that the railway authorities have caused great inconvenience to passengers

from Khanyan to Howrah by the train arrangements which have come into force from the 1st of September. Most of the trains do not now touch at Khanyan, and the result is that no train is available to intending passengers from Khanyan to Howrah from 3 P.M. to 5-30 P.M. This inconvenience can be removed if the Delhi Passenger train due at 5-50 P.M., and the Loop Mixed due at 7 P.M., touch at Khanyan. It is hoped that the attention of the East Indian Railway authorities will be attracted to the matter.

PEOPLE AND
PRATIVASI,
Sept. 12th, 1903.

34. Babu Ashutosh Ghosh, Sikdarpara, Calcutta, writes to the *People and Prativasi* [Calcutta] of the 12th September that recently some licensed coolies at the Howrah

station realised 10 annas from him for carrying five boxes from his carriage to the place where parcels are weighed. In this manner the station coolies realize high rates from all native passengers. The Railway Company has a share in the wages of the coolies, and that is why the coolies have become so exacting and imperious. The coolies, however, do not behave in the same manner with *sahibs* for fear of being beaten.

PEOPLE AND
PRATIVASI,
Sept. 16th, 1903.

35. A correspondent of the *People and Prativasi* [Calcutta] of the 16th September says that the arrangement newly introduced on the Bengal-Nagpur Railway line for

the locking of compartments of the carriages in all passenger trains, causes great inconvenience and delay to passengers. All such compartments are locked up before a train reaches Howrah, but there is no arrangement at that station for opening them as soon as it stops there, and passengers have to wait a considerable time before they can get out. The new arrangement proves particularly inconvenient in the case of passengers starting from the Howrah terminus who are bound for intermediate stations where trains stop for one or two minutes only, and who, if they cannot get out within that short time are frequently overcarried. The attention of the railway authorities concerned is drawn to the complaint.

PEOPLE AND
PRATIVASI,

36. The Ulubaria correspondent of the same paper draws the attention of the local authorities to the dilatory manner in

Delay in completing the repair
of the Ulubaria-Cuttack Road.

which the contractor entrusted with the repair of the Ulubaria-Cuttack Road, and particularly of the portion of the road lying between Ulubaria town and the local railway station, is doing his work. This portion of the road forms the main communication in the town and the only road on which carriages can be driven; and the delay made in completing the repairs is proving extremely inconvenient to the inhabitants. Another cause of complaint against the contractor is that he has most carelessly allowed road materials to be stacked across the road in various places.

PEOPLE AND
PRATIVASI.

37. The same correspondent says that the dwelling-houses provided by the Bengal-Nagpur Railway authorities for their

A complaint regarding house-
accommodation for the railway
staff on the Bengal-Nagpur Rail-
way.

station-masters and assistant station-masters are perfectly uninhabitable. These masonry buildings are much like houses which are built by Musalmans for their own use, and are provided with very few doors and windows and are erected on marshy ground. It certainly behoves the railway authorities to pay some attention to the health of their station-staff.

(h)—General.

CHARU MIHIR,
Sept. 8th, 1903.

38. The *Charu Mihir* [Mymensingh] of the 8th September writes that it takes two or three days for letters posted in the

Postal irregularity in the My-
mensingh district.

Mymensingh town to reach places like Nagarbari, Sialkol, etc., in the mufassal, situated at a distance of about forty miles. This is a great inconvenience. Before the mails were carried by rail, it took one day less than at present. Many sub-offices in the district were needlessly reduced to branch offices by the late Deputy Post-master-General of Dacca. Those offices may again be made sub-offices

without increasing the expenditure of Government, and much improvement may be effected thereby.

39. A correspondent writes to the same paper that great inconvenience will be the result, if, as is proposed, the Sub-Registry office at Badla, in the Mymensingh district, is removed to Karimganj or Kishorganj. The proposal for the removal of the Sub-Registry office from Badla was for the first time raised eighteen months ago, when the then District Magistrate of Mymensingh, Mr. Bonham-Carter, on the representation of the inhabitants, decided against removal. Although a few inhabitants of Badla find it more convenient to register their documents at Kishorganj, that is no reason why the Sub-Registry office should be removed from Badla.

CHARU MIHIR.

40. The *Jyoti* [Chittagong] of the 10th September writes as follows:—
The proposed transfer of the Chittagong Division to Assam was long ago thought of, but it was sedulously kept a secret from the native population. It has now transpired that His Excellency the Viceroy will come to Chittagong next November to effect the transfer. So the destiny of half a crore of people inhabiting the Chittagong Division is going to be changed, but no information of the change has been given to them beforehand, nor has any opportunity been granted to them for making an expression of their opinion. Alas, what a calamity! Will His Excellency be pleased to listen to what the people have to say? Or will he come with the scheme cut and dry?

JYOTI,
Sept. 10th, 1903.

41. The *Hitavadi* [Calcutta] of the 11th September writes as follows:—
When Mr. K. G. Gupta was Excise Commissioner he failed to give full satisfaction to the authorities, and it was for this reason, it is believed, that he was not made a member of the Board of Revenue. However that may be, Mr. Gupta's work as the Superintendent of the Feudatory States in Orissa for the last three years has failed to satisfy the Feudatory Rajas. He interferes with appointments made by them in their States, and requests them to appoint his own men, and a request made by him is virtually an order. Mr. H. G. Cook, Mr. Gupta's predecessor, had, by his justice and impartiality, won the heart of every person, Raja or raiyat, in the Garjat Mahal. We will here give an illustration to show how Mr. Gupta works. The last Dewan of the Daspalla State, who had been nominated to the post by the Superintendent *sahab*, greatly displeased his master, the Raja of Daspalla, by his work. But as he counted on the patronage of powerful men the Raja could not dismiss him. The Dewan, however, himself relieved the Raja by resigning his service. Thereupon the Raja appointed as his Dewan Babu Jagadananda Das, who had for seven years served with great credit as Dewan of the Bamra State—a State more than twice as large as the Daspalla State. As a matter of fact, Jagadananda Babu was offered the service by the Raja of Daspalla. Mr. Gupta was, however, dissatisfied at the appointment made by the Raja, and requested him to appoint another man as his Dewan. The Raja wrote to Mr. Gupta about Jagadananda Babu's ability and fitness, and the manner in which the last Dewan, who was the Superintendent's nominee, had worked. But Mr. Gupta was stern and could not be diverted from his purpose. The Raja was therefore obliged to dismiss his man and appoint Mr. Gupta's man. The Raja is a great man in his State, and this event has been very humiliating to him. If the Garjat Rajas have not the power to appoint even their own servants, what is the use of keeping them on their *gadis* like gilded puppets? They should be pensioned off to pass the remaining days of their lives in holy pilgrimage at Benares. Jagadananda Babu has petitioned the Lieutenant-Governor in the matter. His Honour has now the difficult task of deciding between justice on the one side and Mr. Gupta's official prestige on the other, but it is hoped that Mr. Bourdillon will not shrink from supporting the right side.

HITAVADI,
Sept. 11th, 1903.

42. The same paper is not satisfied with the reply given by the Viceroy's Private Secretary to the petition of the Native Press, praying for an increase in the maximum weight of newspapers carried on one pice postage.

HITAVADI.

The Viceroy's Private Secretary's reply to the Native Press.

and supplying it early, as the Anglo-Indian Press is supplied, with official news. He has referred the first point to the Finance Member, but there is hardly any hope of getting relief from that officer, inasmuch as he has more than once been petitioned in the matter, but without any effect. On the second point, the Private Secretary has advised the Native Press to engage representatives for collecting official news from officers and from the residences of the Viceroy and the Provincial Governors. Many newspapers have such representatives, but how is it that only one or two of them can publish official news promptly? The fact is, any man will not do as a representative. Only such representatives as can mix with European officials socially are able to collect official news. But the Native Press is too poor to engage such men.

BANGAVASI,
Sept. 12th, 1903.

43. Referring to the dismissal of certain Brahmin sepoys at Ranikhet in the Punjab for disobedience of orders, the *Banguvasi* [Calcutta] of the 12th September writes as follows:—

Brahmin sepoys not required to escort carts laden with beef.

We are glad to announce that the carts which Brahmin sepoys were ordered to escort were carts not laden with beef. If any suspicion still remains in the mind of any Hindu sepoy, it should be at once dismissed. Government has proclaimed more than once that it will never interfere with the religion, manners, and customs of the people of India. On the present occasion, nothing has occurred which can cause the least apprehension.

ANUSANDHAN,
Sept. 16th, 1903.

44. In an article headed "Translation of Newspapers," the *Anusandhan* [Calcutta] of the 16th September writes as follows:—

The weekly report on native newspapers.

The Government of Bengal has a Translation Department for making translations of all native newspapers published in Bengal. Babu Chandranath Basu, M.A., B.L., is the head of that Department. Only those portions of newspapers which are marked by him with a red pencil are translated into English by his official subordinates. This translation work is done in secret, and the translations are printed and sent to the authorities secretly. The public can by no means see these translations. That is why many of us believe that all this secrecy of the translation affair is the cause of many evils. In this connection, the remark is made by some people that if anybody abuses Government in reference to any matter, the abuse is forthwith rendered into English, while any praise of Government is, as a rule, not translated. We have also heard it stated that Babu Chandranath is careful to sing the praise of those newspapers whose proprietors happen to be his friends or relations, and that his attitude is unfavourable to those who have a quarrel with him or are not his acquaintances. There is no means of ascertaining the truth or falsity of these allegations, nor is it possible to say whether or no the work of translation is correctly performed. True or false, all this is undoubtedly discreditable to Babu Chandranath. For that reason, as also because Babu Chandranath is our glory in the field of literature, we have, for the purpose of removing the reproach under which he labours, repeatedly asked Government to direct this translation work to be done in a public manner and copies of translated extracts to be supplied to the editors of native newspapers. Why, after all, should there be such hide-and-seek in this matter? If the authorities really entertain any unfavourable idea regarding native newspapers, it is our belief that the performance of the translation work in a public manner may serve to remove that idea. We are informed that a petition will shortly be sent to Government by the proprietors of vernacular newspapers praying for a supply to each of the petitioners of a copy of the extracts from such papers as are officially translated. It behoves Babu Chandranath himself to make his utmost endeavour to further the object of the petitioners, if only for the purpose of removing the reproach under which he now labours. Again, why should such a false accusation be so widely made against a man like him?

III.—LEGISLATION.

45. Referring to the proposed enlargement of the scope of the Officials Secrets Act, the *Hindi Bangavasi* [Calcutta] of the 7th September observes that Lord Curzon is not

The Official Secrets Bill.

HINDI BANGAVASI,
Sept. 7th, 1903.

a man who will do anything to curtail the liberty of the Native Press, which is the only medium through which the Indian people can let their feelings be known to the rulers and the ruling race. In India the Native Press does the same work as the British Parliament does in England.

46. The *Bangavasi* [Calcutta] of the 12th September writes as follows:—

BANGAVASI,
Sept. 12th, 1903.

The Official Secrets Act Amend-
ment Bill.

The reasons for the proposed amendment of the Official Secrets Act, as stated by Government, are quite unintelligible to us. We cannot, indeed, conceive what secret can there be between the Sovereign and his subjects in matters relating to the administration of the country. It is only the benignant aspect of the Sovereign that is manifested in administration. In everything he does he is actuated by the sole desire to do good to his subjects, and it is only for doing good to his subjects that he wields his sceptre. Whatever proceeds from beneficent motives lies on the surface and scorns to hide itself. On the other hand, the tyrant or the traitor loves to conceal himself from the public gaze. For this reason the ferocious robber seeks deep forests or solitary caves, and the thief, intent upon depriving other people of their possessions, the deep gloom of night for the purpose of concealing their hellish machinations. Fear also makes people hide themselves. The incontinent female, through fear of exposure and severe sarcasm, is often obliged to keep her wicked desires a profound secret. The weak often buries his treasures under the ground for fear of the strong. The king makes a secret of his real strength from the enemy who seeks an opportunity of invading his dominions. The object of concealment in their cases is quite plain and its necessity is universally admitted. But in the relation subsisting between the Sovereign and his subjects, in which there can be nothing wicked or tyrannical and no cause for shame, weakness or censure, why should there be this playing at hide-and-seek, this attempt at concealment between father and son? True, some people fail to understand the benevolent object of many acts of the Sovereign. But is this a sufficient reason for keeping them secret? In the affairs of this world, what is done with a benevolent object, what is inspired by pure motives, can never be misunderstood or misapprehended for a long time. Let military and naval matters be kept secret by all means, but secrecy in matters of civil administration and government is undesirable.

In the proposed amendment, the accused, whatever his real motive may be, must show that in trying to find out some official secret or in publishing it, he took the permission of the authorities; otherwise he shall be at once sent to jail. Such hasty procedure will involve many innocent persons in trouble. That Lord Curzon should set himself to make such a Draconian law, passes our comprehension.

We hope Government will clearly define the real nature of official secrets. Government should take care that no difficulty arises in future in their interpretation; that no difference of opinion occurs between Counsel on the two sides. Persons of all classes, whether literate or illiterate, high or low, should be able to understand the thing. Then all difficulties will vanish, and there will be no longer any doubt as to the real intention of the authorities.

47. The *Dacca Gazette* [Dacca] of the 14th September has the following in its English columns:—

DACCA GAZETTE,
Sept. 14th, 1903.

The Official Secrets Act Amend-
ment Bill.

A Bill to amend the Official Secrets Act has been introduced into the Viceroy's Council at Simla. It aims at remedying some of the alleged defects of the present Act. We have no mind to quarrel with the Government as to this provision or that. To our mind the whole Act is a piece of useless legislation. But it has been on the Statute Book since the days of Lord Lansdowne, and it is nothing wonderful that it should be made more vigorous as time goes on. Government has not now that faith in the people which it had in times gone by. It has grown suspicious, and if the utterances of high retired officials afford any indication of its policy, it has gone on increasing until it very nearly savours of distrust. If we are right in our surmise, the proposed amendment is quite intelligible, and it is a sheer waste of pen and ink to write about it in the way the Indian Press is doing.

If the entire Press could be induced to wind up for a time only, the Government would realise their incalculable value and come to know, once for

all, what part the Press plays in the administration of this country. Our rulers are not in touch with the people and they have no means of knowing how or what they think of this measure or that. Supposing the Government to be anxious for doing justice between man and man, it will hardly even hear of the misdeeds that this officer or that may do under cover of his office. Government is an abstract entity, but those that constitute it are human beings, and it is more than what has ever been claimed, even for the "Heaven-born" Service, to think that they will not go wrong, sometimes even knowing it to be so. But if you muzzle the Press, as the proposed amendments do, those wrong deeds, whether consciously or unconsciously done, will go undisclosed, and may by repetition lead to serious consequences.

V.—PROSPECTS OF THE CROPS AND CONDITION OF THE PEOPLE.

BURDWAN SANJIVANI,
Sept. 8th, 1903.

48. A correspondent writes to the *Burdwan Sanjivani* [Burdwan] of the 8th September as follows:—

Distress in the Burdwan district.

Severe distress has already made its appearance in the Galsi thana of the Burdwan district. There has been absolutely no cultivation owing to the failure of the rains in the following villages:—Loya, Santoshpur, Betalban, Dvarnari, Ghagra, Bamun Ara, Loyapur, Bhibsera, Tildanga, Bolpur, Karakdal, Randihi, Khurraj, Kasba, Jagulpara, Maltikuri, Gopemohal, Pardaha, Dakhin Khara, Durgapur, Sukdal, Virsin. The *Bagdis* and the cultivators of those places are in great distress. The lower class people are living upon the seeds of the *syama* grass. The cultivators have applied to the Collector for *takavi* loans, without which it will be impossible for them to maintain themselves. Government should open relief works to give employment to the poor.

Another correspondent writes to the same paper about the severe distress in the Galsi thana. The District Magistrate of Burdwan himself visited many places in the mufassal and promised *takavi* advances to the cultivators. But the promised help has not yet been given, and the cultivators are anxiously expecting it. The condition of the people is daily growing worse, and many people find it difficult to get even one meal a day. Government should help the people in some shape as soon as possible.

MEDINI BANDHAY,
Sept. 9th, 1903.

49. The *Medini Banthav* [Midnapore] of the 9th September speaks of actual famine in the Midnapore district and publishes three letters to the following effect:—

Famine in the Midnapore district.

(1) *Keshpur*.—The condition of the inhabitants of the Palangapur, Rauta, Mundalika, Krishnagar, Ranadanga, Amritapur, Kona, and other villages under the Keshpur thana, has become extremely miserable. *Mahajans* have stopped lending paddy in anticipation of a severe famine. People are passing days without food, and are obliged to sell off their plough cattle, &c., at very much less than their proper prices.

(2) *Kharagpur and Narayangarh*.—Distress has overtaken almost every house in the Khelahr village under the Kharagpur thana. People are passing days without food. The other day 30 or 32 Musalmans of the Benapur village went to the house of their zamindar, Narendranath Satpathi, in the Banpatna village, and said that in case of their not being provided by him with paddy they will save their lives by managing to go to jail. *Mahajans* are holding back their stores of paddy. There has been no cultivation in the Sitli, Asnamani, Fulgarha, Makrampur, Modra, Bhadrakali, Alankarpur, Hiraparhi, Patli, Hiranarshi, Narayangarh, and many other villages for want of rain.

(3) *Doro*.—Light showers have fallen here and there, and cultivators expect to do the work of transplanting paddy plants by the first week of *Aswin* (B.S.), if rainfall continues. But there is no possibility of reaping a harvest grown in this way. Circumstances are, moreover, unfavourable to cultivation. The prevailing distress is becoming severer as days are passing away. Starvation is driving even Hindus to sell their cows to butchers. But it is a matter of great regret that these signs of distress do not fall under the eyes of touring officials. The other day the District Collector saw some blooming low lands on both sides of the road by which he passed from Contai to Kukurahati, and the conclusion which he arrived at from that sight may be easily surmised. No touring official enters into a village so as to have a true idea of the condition of

the country. Many officials close their enquiries at Kukurahati. Government is requested to depute some high official to make enquiries concerning the real condition of the country with the help of respectable and influential natives.

50. It is now acknowledged on all hands, says the *Prajaranjan* [Tamluk] of the 12th September, that there prevails real dis-

Relief measures for some distressed places in the Midnapore district.

tress in many places, specially in the Doro and Gumgarh parganas, that is to say, within the jurisdictions of the Satahata and Nandigram thanas, within the Tamluk subdivision of the Midnapore district. The staple crop of these two thanas is the winter paddy, and there are still four months to the next winter harvest. Early relief should therefore be given to the distressed people, else many of them may be carried off by a sudden outbreak of famine and before Government gets time to lend them a helping hand. The following are some of the steps which should be taken to avert a calamity :—

(1) The Local Board, the local Municipality, and the rich and educated men of the place should form a Committee and collect subscriptions.

(2) Public works should be at once taken in hand under Government supervision in the distressed places with the money already sanctioned by the Local Board for such works.

(3) The money which the District Board has sanctioned for public works in the distressed places should be at once applied to such works under Government supervision and with local labour, and new works should be begun in the same manner, more money being applied for that purpose.

(4) The Bengal-Nagpur Railway Company has sanctioned an extension of the railway line to Kukurahati. It should be seen that this work is soon taken in hand and local labour employed on it.

(5) The Raja of Mahisadal is well known for his charity. He has subscribed large sums of money to the Victoria Memorial Fund, Lady Curzon's Victoria Memorial Fund, and many other funds. Gumgarh pargana is his zamindari. Large help should be taken from him, and public works should be begun with the money in the pargana. A road is wanted between Mohisadal and Nandigram *via* Terpekher. This want can be supplied without a large expenditure of money, because there are high and broad embankments in many places along the route, and land will not have to be acquired. This work should be begun by the Local Board with the help of the Raja.

51. The *Nihar* [Contai] of the 15th September says that the large, extensive, low field in Magra, called the *Magrarmath*,

Standing crop submerged in *Magrarmath*, Midnapore district.

with the crop standing on it has been submerged under water coming from all directions. The crop can be partially saved if all the sluice-gates within twelve miles from the field be at once raised and the sluice or lock-gate at Sarpai or Dandaparulia be opened.

52. The *Pallivasi* [Kalna] of the 16th September has the following :—

Famine in Galsi thana in the Burdwan district.

Famine has made its appearance in Galsi thana. Owing to want of rain, there has been this year no cultivation at all within the limits of that thana, while there was only partial cultivation during the last two or three years. Most of the inhabitants are poor, and, owing to the failure of the crops for successive years, have nothing to eat. Already many are fasting or living on half meals or somehow supporting themselves by eating boiled seeds of the *ayama* grass. The labourers find no employment. In Mankar, Budbud, Randihi, Chaktensul, Patihar, Hansowa, Chundia, Tikora, Kutabpur, Barasain, Raghunathpur, Silempur, Kasba, Khuroraj, Banagram, Amwrah, Sangur, Arjimpur, Tildunga, Habra, Navagram, Jagulpura, Maltikuri, Dakhinkhura, Pardaha, Sukdal, Bhirsin, Gopmahal, Bamunara, Bhilsara, Pyhagra, Santospur, Darnari, Larapur and other villages it has not been possible, owing to drought, to raise a single crop or to sow the winter crop. Government should no longer remain indifferent. *Takavi* advances should be granted to the sufferers, and the work of the proposed railway commenced. The attention of the District Magistrate and the Maharaja of Burdwan is drawn to the necessity of starting relief works.

PRAJARANJAN,
Sept. 12th, 1903.

NIHAR,
Sept. 15th, 1903.

PALLIVASI,
Sept. 16th, 1903.

VI.— MISCELLANEOUS.

53. The *Sanjivani* [Calcutta] of the 10th September writes as follows:—

SANJIVANI,
Sept. 10th 1908.

Increasing tension between Europeans and Indians.

On numberless occasions Europeans after committing outrages upon natives have escaped without any punishment. It is in a very small number of cases indeed that Government gets retrials, and out of this small number it is only in one or two cases, like the Bain case, that the guilt of the accused is not proved, for the Judge cannot be expected to be always free from error. But even such a simple matter has greatly convulsed Anglo-Indian society. It is apprehended that if Government, seeing a hue and cry raised by the Native Press, goes on ordering retrials, the life, property, and honour of the handful of Europeans living in the country will be imperilled. The natives will take it that Government is on their side and that it means to get the European accused punished by fair means or foul. If, therefore, this misconduct of Government be not promptly put a stop to, there is no knowing what other mischiefs will follow. The tea-gardens will have to be given up, and a second mutiny, it may be, will occur.

Everything, perhaps, is possible in this world. But the task of bringing Anglo-Indians to the path of rectitude and love from their career of selfish partiality for their own countrymen, and of intense hatred against natives is not an easy one. Those who are well acquainted with the history of the antagonism between the white and the black races in this country will readily admit the truth of this remark. The situation is daily becoming more serious. Many other conflicting interests are likely to make the question still more difficult of solution. What, then, is our duty under the circumstances?

54. The *Hitavarta* [Calcutta] of the 13th September has the following:—

HITAVARTA,
Aug. 13th, 1908.

The English in India and the Indian people.

The fable runs that in the continent of America there is a kind of bird called the vampire which feeds upon human blood. This bird is so dangerous that a man, once in sight of it, cannot save his life. Among men, also, we see some who are in no wise less injurious to their fellow-beings than the bird named above. The Indian mahajan and the oppressive zamindar are good specimens of men of this class. We also see some particular nations which are even more harmful to mankind at large than the vampire. When America was discovered, a large number of people from civilized England went to the West Indies with a view to colonise the newly discovered islands. The aboriginal people of those islands fled to the jungles before the newcomers. History tells us that for the purpose of exterminating the aborigines, these Christian people adopted the most extraordinary means. The poor aborigines became an eyesore to them. In the country of the vampire those Christian people adopted the propensities of the dreadful bird and destroyed the entire aboriginal population, who were entirely helpless and ignorant of the tactics of warfare. One would feel ashamed to give an account of the manner in which these Christian people killed the Red Indians. They cleared the country of the Red Indians and imported African Negroes to do their menial work. History also tells us that these Negroes also were very cruelly treated by their Christian masters. We thus see that it fares ill with an earthen pot to remain in the company of a pot made of brass. The Europeans are made of brass and the American Indians, the Negroes, and the Asiatics are made of earth. The latter, therefore, cannot remain safe in contact with the former. The very reason which makes Asiatics inferior to Europeans, the very reason which makes Europeans hate and look down upon the Eastern people, and the very reason which makes Europeans proud and insolent to others, makes us, in spite of our education, civilisation, and ancient traditions, nothing better than mere earthen pots, before the people of England. Our very life and death depend upon England's mercy. We are liable to be shattered to pieces by coming into contact with her. We are now in fear lest we should be reduced to the condition of the aboriginal people of America. Are we devising any means for saving ourselves? In whatever manner the people of England may behave to others, they treat us with affection. The reason of this may be either their own generosity or the influence of the Indian climate.

But this affectionate feeling is found only in individual Englishmen, not in the English people as a whole. Not to speak of Lord Ripon, Lords Cornwallis, Canning, Metcalfe, Bentinck, Lawrence, and Mayo, although foreigners in India, treated its people with kindness. Those Englishmen were able to win the affection of the Indians when establishing British supremacy in this country. But how far this has promoted our permanent welfare and to what condition we are fallen in the struggle for self-interest raging among powerful nations, is matter for consideration. We ought to find out some means by which our monarch, foreigner as he is, may be induced to part with a portion of his own interest and try to promote our welfare. No delay should be made in finding out some reasonable means for doing this.

55. The *People and Prativasi* [Calcutta] of the 14th September has the following in its English column:—

PEOPLE AND
PRATIVASI,
Sept. 14th, 1903.

Miss Ghosal and hero-worship.

Miss Sarala Devi Ghosal has of late been appealing to young Bengal to celebrate our national heroes, and with sedulous zeal been commending to our notice the claims of this hero and that. With a glow of what appears to be a genuine patriotic feeling, she has issued a manifesto, passionately pleading the country's cause and exhorting young Bengal to emulate the successes, the prowess, the patriotic zeal, and the achievements of the Indian worthies. According to her, in hero-worship lay the panacea for the present ills of India—it was a potent agency to work India's regeneration. The proposal is worthy of Miss Ghosal. Herself a cultured lady of education and talent, imbued with the refined patriotism of the West, it is natural that she should highly prize the exemplary chivalry of the Western Knights of the Middle Ages, cast a look behind towards India's past, and seek to rehabilitate her heroes of traditional memory. We must not be understood to scoff at Miss Ghosal's idea. It is noble, and worthy of her who has conceived it. But we should like to be pardoned if we told her plainly that hero-worship, according to her conception of it, would be useless, if not impossible, under the present circumstances. In the first place, we would look in vain for a hero of recent memory,—into whose thoughts, feelings and aspirations we could fully enter—of the “generous spirit, which, when brought among the tasks of real life, hath wrought upon the plan that pleased his childish thoughts.” In the second place, if a hero was available, we hardly think we should be in a position to worship him and his methods and emulate his achievements. The conditions under which those heroes existed and flourished have vastly changed. The epoch at which they were called into being and which they made is altogether different from the present. Our adoration of them would mean the holding of speech-days, on which language, temperate and intemperate, would be indulged in. The celebration of their exploits would at least make us mere stagers, a body of mere masqueraders. Masks we have worn long and many. We won't have any more of them. We think Miss Ghosal will hold with us that speech-days and stage-mockeries are *not* the means to work our national regeneration.

Then, again, how many national heroes have we? Bengal can hardly account for two. A Sivaji, a Rana Pratap would be national heroes only in the sense that both Sivaji and Pratap were Indians. Could we possibly be their real worshippers without being mere talkers, glibly discussing or enumerating their heroic virtues? Could we work ourselves up to their ideal amidst our present environments? If Miss Ghosal answered these questions in the affirmative, she would be postulating too much.

From what Miss Ghosal says, it appears that she is thrusting upon our notice the warlike elements that were predominant in these heroes. Brute force never claimed the homage of mankind. It has never succeeded in maintaining its supremacy over the human race. It has always been abhorred and cursed. The man of character has always been the idol of his fellows. Miss Ghosal would do a greater service to the country if she exhorted her countrymen to reform their national character. There is many a moral canker that is eating into the very vitals of our national being at the present day which requires doctoring. It would be a step in the right, and the most desired direction, if we could set ourselves to curing the many defects in our national character—the many lazar sores in the national heart. A *Birastami* day or a Sivaji day will not, we say, act as a soothing cataplasm on these national ailments. What we want is the development of manhood in its

truest sense, and we long for a hero who would minister unto the national diseases and give tone and health to the national character—one who would teach us to love and follow truth.

Miss Ghosal's scheme, as we have understood her to have propounded it, will not reach these ills.

PEOPLE AND
PRATIVASI,
Sept. 15th, 1908.

56. The *People and Prativasi* [Calcutta] of the 15th September has the following in its English columns:—

Miss Ghosal and hero-worship.

The more closely we examine Miss Ghosal's proposal and its probable effect on our young men, if it is carried out, the more convinced we become that far from doing any good, it is most likely to become a prolific parent of many evils. When Sir Charles Elliott, the late Lieutenant-Governor of Bengal, recommended athletic sports for our young men, our leaders, and more specially our well-to-do countrymen, readily welcomed the idea and came forward with pecuniary aid to give practical shape to Sir Charles's scheme. The result was that the metropolis saw as many Sporting Associations as there are lanes and streets in Calcutta. The mufassal followed suit. Under official patronage, foot-ball associations grew up like mushrooms in every mufassal town and village. Sporting was, and up to now is, the craze of the day. What has been the result? It must be admitted that those that expected Samsons of our young men were sadly disappointed. Instead of a body of healthy and muscular young men, we generally find in their stead a number of emaciated bullies of varying ages ceaselessly talking of foot-ball and discussing the merits of the *non-pareil* "backs," "half-backs," and "forwards" of this club and that—do-nothing young men and boys whose progress report from school, we are afraid, is anything but creditable. We have heard *paterfamilias* bitterly complain that foot-ball and kindred sports have been the bane of their boys. We should have been most glad if in lieu of intellectual imbecility we got tough sinews and muscles. Tough sinews and muscles require substantial food, and we hardly think Miss Ghosal will come forward and say that our young men, we mean the majority of them, have enough food at home. We have seen young men returning home from the sporting field quite exhausted and going to sleep until dinner is ready. And what a dinner is it? Where are the substantial dishes necessary to recoup the exhausted system? We know here and there a rare specimen of health and energy, due to physical exercise, can be pointed out to us. They are, we say, exceptions. The common experience is emaciated limbs, worn out cheek-bones, cigarette-smoking bullies with a vivacious tongue—the "mudied oaf at the goal" is at once the abhorrence and despair of his parents or guardians. The compensating gain is nothing compared to the heavy loss society and families are at present sustaining by the introduction of the athletic sports. The wisdom of the author of the proposal and of his supporters is now seriously questioned, regretted, and cursed. We must not be supposed to cry down physical culture altogether, to hold up the dyspeptic book-worm before our young men. We value physical culture as much as any one of the keen athletes amongst us. But what we want to point out is that our country is so very cursed, the surroundings of our young men, their social and family environment and training, and our education system are such as to preclude all possibility of a scheme like that of Miss Ghosal being introduced to the benefit of those for whom it is intended. We are afraid Miss Ghosal's scheme is in danger of being degenerated into a fad, if she ignores the circumstances that environ our young men. Our young men, and, for the matter of that, their parents, are the creatures of circumstances, and nowhere is the saying, that men are the creatures of circumstances, so true as in Bengal. The family and a thousand and one duties which the word "family" implies seriously handicap the Bengali of the present day—in these days of the depreciated rupee. Besides, the training and the system under which education is imparted in Bengal at the present day are seriously at fault. If, therefore, hero-worship is to be inaugurated, *Birastami* day is to be made a national institution in the land, and all that is heroic is to be held up before our young men, so that their ideals may be elevated, a change in their very life and the mode of living is essential. We know, it is said, that most of England's battles were fought on the foot-ball field. We know it is a fact that the best rower in the Cambridge Boat Race was many a time the Senior Wrangler of the year. But the most superficial observer must admit that the conditions

under which an English youth is brought up are different from those of an Indian youth. Circumstanced as the Indian youth is, he can no more worship a hero, in its truest sense, than a Bengali can aspire to command the British army. We must be careful in introducing exotics in our midst. We should use due circumspection before we plant an oak in a flower-tub. Hero-worship, we do not deny, elevates our ideal, but before we institute it we ought to see whether in worshipping our heroes we, as we said in our previous articles, do not become mere mimics and masqueraders. By the bye, have our young men really attained to such moral elevation as to deserve to be hero-worshippers? We are very doubtful on this point. Our information is rather disparaging to our young men, and we would rather suggest a course of rigid discipline, and moral training before we could propose a loftier flight for our young men. Schoolmasters, boarding-house Superintendents, parents and guardians are our witnesses, and we are afraid their evidence will be of an incriminating character. We, of course, don't cite mercenary school authorities and school proprietors as our witnesses, for their interest it will be to white-wash the young delinquents, as they always do.

57. The *People and Prativasi* [Calcutta] of the 16th September has the following in its English columns:—

"White heat."

The Bain case has apparently thrown the Anglo-Indian community into the wildest paroxysm of rage. The Anglo-Indian Press is in a state of ferment. The *Englishman*, of all other Anglo-Indian papers, has been playing the most absurd of all antics. It has been raking up out-of-date and antiquated documents to show that under the existing law the liberty of the European is seriously at stake in India. The Hare Street journal has got up an agitation and opened its column to letters supposed to come from indignant Anglo-Indians to show that the feeling of the community runs very high. Its object evidently is to hoodwink the authorities, if possible, into the belief that Europeans labour under a serious disability in India, and that a change in the present law was urgently called for. The burden of the song of the *Englishman* and its correspondents seems to be that Bain has been the victim of an iniquitous legal system, that but for the intervention of an able Judge he would have been ear-marked for life, and that there should be one law for the Europeans and another for the Indians. The attitude of the Anglo-Indians and their spokesmen in the Press is anything but creditable. It shows that the just, fair-minded, and generous Briton forgets his traditions in India and seeks to pose as the white lord of Indian creation. Apparently the Indian atmosphere proves to him much too enervating. He is to hit the native with impunity—his insolence and *hauteur* the "native" is to bear meekly, and if the audacious "native" drags him into Court, he is to be let off. The weather, the stupidity of the "native," the *ennui* and the dyspepsia of the white lord ought to sufficiently justify the latter's temporary ebullition of temper. But if a Court, composed of the accused Anglo-Indian's peers, seeks to bring him to book, why the whole community girds up its loins, hurls defiance at the authorities, and demands redress and a change of law. The sight is peculiar to India. The present ripple in the Anglo-Indian community resembles in a faint manner the mighty wave that lashed that blessed community in the days of Lord Ripon. Happily for us we have a strong Viceroy at the helm of affairs at the present moment, and we are quite sure the *brutum fulmen* of Anglo-India is destined to end in smoke.

The invidious and irritating distinction between plebians and patricians is exploded, and to expect England to-day to inaugurate a legal system in India which would reserve special privileges for the dominant race would be a gross anachronism. It is not expected that England, at such a late hour of the day, would choose to make us uitlanders in our own land. It would be against her traditions—her cherished principles,—Anglo-India may be in a state of frenzy—it may, amidst a demoralising atmosphere, claim, like a spoilt child, special privileges, but we are convinced its whinings are destined to be cast to the winds.

After all, are Anglo-Indians really at the mercy of the Indian Magistracy and the Judiciary? The Criminal Procedure Code sufficiently safeguards their interests. There are the special privileges of a European British-born subject, there is his right to be tried by a jury composed of his own countrymen, his special right to be tried by a High Court when charged with heinous offences in the mufassal, and last, though not least, the tradition and the tendency of our law-courts to make large allowances for and to favour a

PEOPLE AND
PRATIVASI,
Sept. 16th, 1903.

European accused when pitted against an Indian. The statistics of cases or rather the results of cases, between Europeans and Indians would be interesting reading. Of late, unfortunately, there have been several cases in succession of ruptured spleen in which Europeans have played the part of accused, and it is curious that in not one of them the case resulted in conviction. And what is this Bain case out of which a mountain is sought to be made? Mr. Bain was convicted in Assam, by a Court composed of a European Magistrate and a European jury, of a minor charge, and acquitted of the most heinous one. The Government appealed to the High Court against the order of acquittal as regards the heinous charge, and a Divisional Bench of the High Court, after a careful consideration of the evidence and after hearing the learned Advocate-General in support of the appeal, ordered Mr. Bain's retrial. When the case came up for retrial before the High Court Sessions, the presiding Judge, without empanelling the jury, asked the Advocate-General to enter a *nolle prosequi* on behalf of the Government, as in the opinion of the learned Judge, there was not evidence enough to fasten the guilt upon Mr. Bain. Mr. Bain was accordingly let off. The case is shrouded in mystery. It is an enigma to the public how the District Courts could convict Mr. Bain, how two Judges of the highest eminence of the highest tribunal in the land could pass an order for retrial, and how another Judge of the same Court could throw the whole Court overboard.

A good deal of discussion might take place and, as a matter of fact, is taking place in respect of the Bain case. Nothing has transpired, we are deliberately of opinion, to lead the Anglo-Indian community to cry "murder." The agitation in the Anglo-Indian Press is at best factitious. It is an unworthy attempt at seeking to make capital out of an accident—an unforeseen event which is the result of neither a legal anomaly nor the perversity of a legal system. The authorities will be belying their statesmanship if they do not see through this agitation, the motive of which is too transparent.

URIYA PAPERS.

UTKALDIPKA,
Sept. 5th, 1903.

58. The *Utkaldipika* [Cuttack] of the 5th September states that the state of the standing crop is good, and that more rain is required in the current month.

GARJATBASINI.
Sept. 5th, 1903.

Crop prospect in the Talcher State.

59. The *Garjatbasini* [Talcher] of the 5th September states that the state of the crop in that State is good.

SAMVAD VAHIKA,
Sept. 8th, 1903.

60. The *Samvad Vahika* [Balasore] of the 3rd September regrets that Mr. Tilak, so well known to the Indian community for his patriotism and public spirit, should have been brought to grief.

GARJATBASINI.
Sept. 5th, 1903.

61. The *Garjatbasini* [Talcher] of the 5th September regrets to observe that about 40 thefts were committed in mauza Amhapalasa in Dhenkanal within a period of two years, and draws the attention of the local authorities to the same.

ALL THE URIYA
PAPERS.

62. All the native papers of Orissa for the week under review make a sympathetic notice of the career of Lord Salisbury, the late English Prime Minister, and are unanimous in their statement that the last great statesman of the Victorian era has passed away.

URIYA AND NAVA-
SAMVAD,
Sept. 2nd, 1903.

63. The *Uriya and Navasamvad* [Balasore] of the 2nd September is of opinion that the Bengal Settled Estates Bill, when passed into law, will prove useful in securing permanency and stability for many a distinguished family in Bengal.

UTKALDIPKA,
Sept. 5th, 1903.

64. The *Utkaldipika* [Cuttack] of the 5th September approves of the nomination of Mr. L. M. Ghose to the presidency of the ensuing meeting of the Indian National Congress at Madras, and observes that Mr. Ghose will be able to give the Congress, as well as the public, a good speech.

UTKALDIPKA.

65. The same paper regrets that the Serampore Cotton Mill has changed hands and has been sold off to a Bombay man for a nominal price. This is a sad commentary on the industry and enterprise of the people of Bengal.

66. The same paper approves of the election of Babu Ram Sankar Rai by the Commissioners of the Cuttack Municipality as the Chairman of that Municipality, but regrets that five Commissioners were conspicuous by their absence from the meeting where the election took place.

UTKALDIPKA.

The last Municipal election in Cuttack town.

67. Continuing its article on the economic condition of Orissa, past and present, the same paper observes that those classes of Uriyas that look up to Government service for honour and distinction are disappointed to find that this service is not guided by any fixed principle. The writer thinks that *Orissa for the Uriyas* should be the guiding principle of Government in distributing its patronage. Englishmen fully know the value of the economic principle enunciated above, but since they have deprived the Indians of their birthright and privileges by monopolising the best employments in the Indian Empire, they do not care if particular classes of Indians, such as the Bengalis, the Mahrattas, the Telegus, etc., do, in their turn, serve their weaker brethren, such as the Uriyas, in a similar way. The pleas of competency, of sound English education, of success in competitive examination, and of broad experience and personal knowledge of the principles upon which British administration is conducted, are so many attempts to divert attention from the keen struggle for existence that is going on in every part of the British Empire, and since Englishmen consider themselves to be the best and fittest of all, let them have a few select appointments in Orissa and let all the remaining appointments go to the Uriyas. If this is not done within a reasonable period, the Uriya middle classes will soon become extinct, for where will the children of the soil go if the loaves and fishes of the country are monopolised by foreigners?

UTKALDIPKA.

The abolition of salt manufacture, on the one hand, and the import of cotton piece-goods under favourable terms from foreign countries, on the other, have broken the backbone of those classes of Uriyas, who had selected trade and manufacture for their spheres of action. Government did nothing to protect them, and they are in a deplorable condition. Let the salt manufacture be revived, and let indigenous manufactures be protected against the inroads of foreign competition.

68. A correspondent of the same paper points out that a dispensary is very much needed at Mahanga, a populous and respectable centre of the Cuttack district, and is willing to contribute Rs. 100 towards the undertaking if the District Magistrate takes up the subject for consideration in right earnest. The correspondent points out that a man, while attempting to climb up a cocoanut tree in Mahanga, fell down senseless and there was nobody near at hand to afford him medical relief. This is one of the many incidents that occur every year in that part of the Cuttack district.

UTKALDIPKA.

ASSAM PAPERS.

69. A correspondent writes to the *Silchar* [Silchar] of the 31st August as follows:—

SILCHAR,
Aug. 31st, 1903.

Increase of thefts in the Sylhet district.

Thefts have greatly increased in the following villages within the Kamalganj outpost in pargana Bhanugachh:—Munshibazar, Govindpur, Harisaran, Bikramkalash, Kumarteki, Durgapur, Radhanagar. The villagers can hardly sleep peacefully at night. It is to be hoped that the worthy Deputy Commissioner of Sylhet and the Subdivisional Officer of Maulvi Bazar will take due notice of the matter.

70. The same correspondent complains in the same paper that the Local Board chaukidars of the Maulvi Bazar subdivision in the Sylhet district serve no useful purpose. On the other hand, they do a lot of mischief. One Adil Muhammad, a Local Board chaukidar, posted on the road from Maulvi Bazar to Samsernagar, frequently sends some one of his relations to take his place on the road. Such men impound cattle belonging to poor people, whether found on the road or in the adjoining fields, and thereby make some profit, being paid for the work by the pound-keeper. But cattle belonging to the friends of the chaukidar are allowed to graze freely on the road.

SILCHAR.

CHUNDER NATH BOSE,

Bengali Translator.

BENGALI TRANSLATOR'S OFFICE,

The 19th September, 1903.

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